In the claims:

Please cancel Claims 23-40 and add the following new claims:

41. A method of preventing or treating loss of bone mass resulting from lytic bone disease associated with cancer in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an OPG polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2) or a truncated OPG polypeptide thereof, and a therapeutically effective amount of a cancer therapy agent.

42. A method for preventing abnormal bone formation associated with cancer in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an OPG polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2) or a truncated polypeptide thereof, and a therapeutically effective amount of a cancer therapy agent.

43. The method of Claims 41 or 42 wherein the OPG polypeptide comprises a mature OPG polypeptide.

44. The method of Claims 41 or 42 wherein the OPG polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence from residues 22 to 401 inclusive as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) or a truncated polypeptide thereof.

45. The method of Claims 41 or 42 wherein the OPG polypeptide comprises a carboxy terminal truncation of part or all of amino acid residues 186-401 as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

46. The method of Claims 41 or 42 wherein the OPG polypeptide of residues 22 to 401 as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) comprises a carboxy terminal truncation of part or all of amino acid residues 186-401.

47. The method of Claims 41 or 42 wherein the OPG polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 22-194 inclusive or amino acid residues 22-201 inclusive as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

48. The method of Claims 41 or 42 wherein the OPG polypeptide is an OPG fusion polypeptide.

49. The method of Claim 48 wherein the OPG fusion polypeptide comprises a fusion of an Fc region to the N-terminal or C-terminal end of the OPG polypeptide.

50. The method of Claim 48 wherein the OPG fusion polypeptide comprises an Fc region fused to amino acid residues 22-194 of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

51. The method of Claim 48 wherein the OPG fusion polypeptide comprises an Fc region fused to amino acid residues 22-201 of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

52. The method of Claim 48 wherein the OPG fusion polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 5 (SEQ ID NO: 5) or in Figure 8 (SEQ ID NO: 8).

53. The method of Claims 41 or 42 wherein the OPG polypeptide is administered prior to, concurrent with, or subsequent to administration of a cancer therapy agent.

54. The method of Claim 41 wherein lytic bone disease is associated with cancer which has metastasized to bone.

55. The method of Claim 54 wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, prostate cancer, thyroid cancer, cancer of the kidney, lung cancer, esophageal cancer, rectal cancer, bladder cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, liver cancer, cancer of the gastrointestinal tract, multiple myeloma, and lymphoma.

56. The method of Claims 41 or 42 wherein the cancer therapy agent is chemotherapy.

57. The method of Claim 56 wherein chemotherapy comprises anthracyclines, taxol, tamoxifene, doxorubicin, and 5-fluorouracil.

58. The method of Claims 41 or 42 wherein the therapeutically effective amount of an OPG polypeptide or an OPG fusion polypeptide is from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg.